Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all previously submitted listings of Claims in the Application.

1. (previously presented) A method for supporting an interworking between a wireless local area network and a mobile communications network, the mobile communications network including a radio access network comprising a transceiver coupled to a radio network controller, the radio network controller being coupled to a core network, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an interworking function disposed on the wireless local area network side of the mobile communications network; ~~and~~

connecting the wireless local area network to the mobile communications network by employing the interworking function as an auxiliary radio network controller associated with the mobile communications network;

the mobile communications network further including a serving general packet radio service support node, a gateway general packet radio service support node, and a node B, said method further comprises the steps of:

forming a data path from a user equipment to the interworking function to the serving radio network controller to the serving general packet radio service support node to the gateway general packet radio service support node; and

forming a control path from the user equipment to the node B to the serving radio network controller to the serving general packet radio service support node to the gateway general packet radio service support node.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the

mobile communications network comprises a universal mobile telecommunications system and the interworking function is employed as a drift radio network controller.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said connecting step connects the wireless local area network to the mobile communications network through a user plane interface.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 3, wherein the mobile communications network has a serving radio network controller, and the user plane interface is disposed between the interworking function and the serving radio network controller.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said connecting step comprises the step of establishing an Iur interface between the interworking function and the serving radio network controller.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of diverting data from the serving radio network controller to the wireless local area network through the Iur interface.

7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said connecting step splits a control plane between the mobile communications network and the wireless local area network and also splits a user plane between the mobile communications network and the wireless local area network.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said connecting step comprises the step of transmitting a radio link setup request from the serving radio network controller to the interworking function.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said transmitting step is performed using a radio network subsystem application part message that includes at least one of quality of service parameters and a type of dedicated/common transport channel.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of performing call admission control by the interworking function.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said performing step is implemented based upon at least one of a type of service assigned by the interworking function, a type of dedicated/common transport channel requested by the serving radio network controller, and wireless local area network resources available in an access point to which a user equipment will attach.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of releasing data bearers of the mobile communications network when activity has ceased on data channels of the mobile communications network.

14. (previously presented) An apparatus for supporting an interworking between a wireless local area network and a mobile communications network, comprising an interworking function disposed on a wireless local area network side of the mobile communications network, and

means for connecting the wireless local area network to the mobile

communications network using the interworking function as a drift radio network controller for the mobile communications network;

wherein the mobile communications network has a serving radio network controller, and the user plane interface is disposed between the interworking function and the serving radio network controller;

wherein the mobile communications network further includes a serving general packet radio service support node, a gateway general packet radio service support node, and a node B, said apparatus further comprises:

means for forming a data path from a user equipment to the interworking function to the serving radio network controller to the serving general packet radio service support node to the gateway general packet radio service support node; and

means for forming a control path from the user equipment to the node B to the serving radio network controller to the serving general packet radio service support node to the gateway general packet radio service support node.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means for connecting connects the wireless local area network to the mobile communications network through a user plane interface.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means for connecting comprises means for establishing an Iur interface between the interworking function and the serving radio network controller.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising means for diverting data from the serving radio network controller to the wireless

local area network through the Iur interface.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said means for connecting splits a control plane between the mobile communications network and the wireless local area network and also splits a user plane between the mobile communications network and the wireless local area network.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said means for connecting comprises means for transmitting a radio link setup request from the serving radio network controller to the interworking function.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for transmitting uses a radio network subsystem application part message that includes at least one of quality of service parameters and a type of dedicated/common transport channel.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising means for performing call admission control by the interworking function.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for performing call admission control employs at least one of a type of service assigned by the interworking function, a type of dedicated/common transport channel requested by the serving radio network controller, and wireless local area network resources available in an access point to which a user equipment will attach.

24. (cancelled)

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising means for releasing data bearers of the mobile communications network when activity has ceased on data channels of the mobile communications network.